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VIRGINIA ENERGY COMPANY WINS NATIONAL MINE RECLAMATION AWARD

BIG STONE GAP- Virginia Energy Company was presented a special plaque on Wednesday, May 31, 2000, by Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) officials in recognition of a national reclamation award bestowed upon the company's Twin Star #2 Mine. The Buchanan County surface mine was recently recognized by the Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC) with an honorable mention for outstanding reclamation achievements in that organization's Kenes Bowling National Reclamation Award Program.

DMME's Division of Mined Land Reclamation Managers Roger L. Williams and Ernie Barker presented the plaque to Virginia Energy Company operator Don Nicewonder in a brief ceremony at a company facility. Virginia nominated the mine as an outstanding example of re-mining, being a good neighbor and effectively managing mining across state boundaries.

This job is unique in that the Virginia/West Virginia state boundary traverses the center of the permitted site. The operator has been successful in mining the area as one operation while working with state and federal inspectors from both states.

The company has provided employment to several of the local residents. The post mining land use has provided more usable land for the area. Throughout the mine's operation, the company has also been very responsive to any complaints from citizens living near the mining operations.

As the amount of coal to be mined in Virginia decreases, mining operations that place an emphasis on reining and developing usable land for future generations have become increasingly important. Virginia Energy demonstrates that previously mined lands can be reined, the environment improved, and usable land created while creating jobs in the community.

The IMCC is a multi-state governmental organization representing the natural resource interests of its 17 member states in Washington, DC. Reclamation awards are presented each year by the IMCC to coal and non-coal mineral mining operations that have demonstrated excellence in reclamation.

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